

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

### IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title as follows:

METHODS APPARATUS FOR TRANSFERRING WAFER[[S]] AND RING

### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An aspect of the present invention involves a method of transferring wafers ~~between~~into and out of a thermal treatment chamber in[[and]] a thermal treatment installation. The treatment chamber has a top section and a bottom section between which the wafer is accommodated during treatment. As illustrated in Figure 12, the[[The]] thermal treatment installation 100 has a loading chamber 120 in which one wafer 6 of a set of wafers is combined with a ring 1 in a wafer/ring combination. The loading chamber 120 has loading means for placing [[a]]the wafer 6 on a wafer support 1 and transport means 50 for moving the wafer/ring combination. The wafer 6 is placed on the wafer support 1 with the loading means while in the loading chamber 120, wherein the wafer support 1 is configured as a ring having support elements to support the wafer 6. The wafer support 1 loaded with the wafer 6 is inserted into the thermal treatment chamber 110 of the reactor 10 using the transport means 50 so that the wafer 6 and the wafer support 1 are positioned between the top section and the bottom section in the thermal treatment chamber 110. The wafer 6 is individually processed in the thermal treatment chamber 110. After processing the wafer 6, the wafer support 1 is removed from the thermal treatment chamber 110.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 8 shows a variant of Figs 6 and 7 with auxiliary ring[[,]];

Appl. No. : 10/009,851  
Filed : November 6, 2001

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 9 shows a side view of a construction according to Fig. 8 introduced into a reactor[[],];

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 10 shows a variant of Figs 6 and 7 with auxiliary ring[[] and];

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 11 shows a side view of a construction according to Fig. 8 introduced into a reactor[[],]; and

Please add the following paragraph at page 5, line 32:

Figure 12 shows a plan view of a thermal treatment installation, according to preferred embodiments of the invention.